WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:

reading data in response to a request for a predetermined amount of data; and

5   determining an amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the predetermined amount of data.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining comprises keeping track of the data as the data is read.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein determining comprises maintaining a count of data that has been read.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined

15   amount of data comprises prefetch data and demand data, the demand data comprising data for a computer program and the prefetch data comprising data adjacent to the demand data.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising satisfying

20   a request for the demand data based on the amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the predetermined amount of data.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein, if the amount of data

25   that has been read is not sufficient to satisfy the request

for the demand data, the method further comprises waiting for an amount of data to be read that is sufficient to satisfy the request for the demand data.

5   7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

issuing a second request for a second predetermined amount of data, the second predetermined amount of data being out of sequence relative to the predetermined amount of data; and

10   storing an amount of data that has been read up to a point at which the second request is issued.

8.   An article comprising a computer-readable storage medium which stores computer-executable instructions that
15 cause a computer to:

read data in response to a request for a predetermined amount of data; and

determine an amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the predetermined amount of data.

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9.   The article of claim 8, wherein determining comprises keeping track of the data as the data is read.

10.   The article of claim 8, wherein determining
25 comprises maintaining a count of data that has been read.

11. The article of claim 8, wherein the predetermined amount of data comprises prefetch data and demand data, the demand data comprising data for a computer program and the prefetch data comprising data adjacent to the demand data.

12. The article of claim 11, further comprising instructions that cause the computer to satisfy a request for the demand data based on the amount of data that has been read prior to completing reading the predetermined amount of data.

13. The article of claim 12, wherein, if the amount of data that has been read is not sufficient to satisfy the request for the demand data, the article further comprises instructions that cause the computer to wait for an amount of data to be read that is sufficient to satisfy the request for the demand data.

14. The article of claim 8, further comprising instructions that cause the computer to:

issue a second request for a second predetermined amount of data, the second predetermined amount of data being out of sequence relative to the predetermined amount of data; and

store an amount of data that has been read up to a point at which the second request is issued.

15. An apparatus comprising:

a memory which stores computer-executable instructions; and

a processor which executes the instructions to (i) read

5 data in response to a request for a predetermined amount of

data, and (ii) determine an amount of data that has been read

prior to completing reading the predetermined amount of data.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein determining

10 comprises keeping track of the data as the data is read.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein determining

comprises maintaining a count of data that has been read.

15 18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the predetermined

amount of data comprises prefetch data and demand data, the

demand data comprising data for a computer program and the

prefetch data comprising data adjacent to the demand data.

20 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the processor

executes instructions to satisfy a request for the demand data

based on the amount of data that has been read prior to

completing reading the predetermined amount of data.

25 20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein, if the amount of

data that has been read is not sufficient to satisfy the

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request for the demand data, the processor executes

instructions to wait for an amount of data to be read that is

sufficient to satisfy the request for the demand data.

5   21.   The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the processor

executes instructions to (i) issue a second request for a

second predetermined amount of data, the second predetermined

amount of data being out of sequence relative to the

predetermined amount of data, and (ii) store an amount of data

10   that has been read up to a point at which the second request

is issued.